

REMARKS

I. Overview

These remarks are set forth in response to the First Office Action mailed October 31, 2007. As this amendment has been timely filed within the three-month statutory period, neither an extension of time nor a fee is required. Presently, claims 1 through 4 and 6 through 17 are pending in the Patent Application. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 8 and 13 are independent. In the First Office Action, claims 1 through 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,564,261 to Gudjonsson et al., (hereinafter Gudjonsson).

II. The Applicant's Invention

The Applicant has invented a system, method and apparatus for the policy based provisioning of a Web conference. In accordance with the present invention, one or more conferencing policies can be established which describe when to provision a CPE implemented Web conference and when to provision a hosted Web conference based upon conferencing criteria. A policy manager can have a configuration for processing the conferencing policies and for processing a request for a Web conferencing from a communicatively linked end user to select one of the Web conferencing platforms to host the Web conference. The conferencing criteria can include considerations such as the number of participants, the location of the participants, the level of required security, the date and time of day of the conference, and the capacity of the CPE servers at a particular time of day or date. Prior to provisioning a Web

conference, the policy or policies can be applied to a set of criteria associated with the Web conference to select either a CPE implemented Web conference or a hosted Web conference.

III. Amended Claims

Applicant has amended claim1 to highlight the function of the policy manager in processing and managing a policy set forth in a policy document as supported in Figure 1 and paragraph [0022] of the Applicants' specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

A. Characterization of Gudjonsson

Gudjonsson relates to system includes a loosely confederated network of server clusters along with any number of client terminals (i.e., clients) that connect to the clusters. Terminals/clients can be software entities running under some operating system or any other device running on some communication network that can have access to the cluster. Users are registered within some specific cluster and given a unique user ID. This user ID along with the ID of the cluster (CID) constitutes a globally unique user ID (UID) within the whole system. Users can be human or any other entity that connects to the cluster via some client terminal or by some other method/system. Terminals can gain access to any number of services running within the cluster, or to services running in other clusters (a "service" is a software entity that can have arbitrary functions). The connection between the terminal and the cluster is secure, and may use

cryptography in certain embodiments. (See Gudjonsson Summary of Invention, column 2, lines 50-67).

B. Traversal of the Rejections on the Art

Applicant's amended claim1 refers explicitly to a policy manager, which has a configuration for processing one or more conferencing policies and for processing a request for a Web conferencing from a communicatively linked end user to select one of the Web conferencing platforms to host the Web conference. As is well-known in the art and demonstrated by a simple Internet search, the term policy, in policy-based networking, is a formal set of statements that define how the network's resources are to be allocated among its clients" (from Whatis.com). Therefore, a policy manager is used to implement the various policies or as claimed by Applicant has a "configuration for processing one or more conferencing policies." Gudjonsson fails to disclose a "policy manager having a configuration for processing a policy set forth in a policy document and for processing a request for a Web conferencing from a communicatively linked end user to select one of said Web conferencing platforms to host said Web conference."

Exemplary claim 1 recites as follows:

1. A Web conference provisioning system comprising a policy manager coupled to at least two different Web conferencing platforms over a computer communications network, said policy manager having a configuration for processing a policy set forth in a policy document and for processing a request for a Web conferencing from a communicatively linked end user to select one of said Web conferencing platforms to host said Web conference.

At paragraph 2 of the First Office Action, the Examiner expressly states the “policy manager” is disclosed by the “operates or managers (policy managers) of at least one cluster” at column 7, lines 35-67 of Gudjonsson. A careful examination of the cited passage of Gudjonsson fails to find any mention of a “policy manager having a configuration for processing a policy set forth in a policy document”. In fact, there is no mention of “policy” or “policy manager” anywhere in the cited passages of Gudjonsson. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections based upon the Gudjonsson reference because Gudjonsson fails to teach or suggest a policy manager as is well understood by the skilled artisan.

V. Conclusion

For these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). This entire application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. The Applicant requests that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

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Respectfully submitted,

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